

90 BLUE & WHITE

The official magazine of the
South Melbourne Hellas Soccer Club Ltd.



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ROUND 28 - 1995/96 Ericsson Cup
SOUTH MELBOURNE v SYDNEY UNITED
Sunday 31st March 1996

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Bob Jane Stadium
Aughtie Drive, Albert Park
Melbourne
VICTORIA 3206

POSTAL ADDRESS:
PO Box 1349 South Melbourne
VICTORIA 3205

TELEPHONE: (03) 9645 9797
FAX: (03) 9645 9796

ADVERTISING ENQUIRIES:
Peter Filopoulos: Tel (03) 9645 9797

President George Vasilopoulos
Secretary Nick Sagiakios
General Manager Peter Filopoulos
Marketing Manager Barry Horsfall
Coach Frank Arak
Club Captain Paul Trimboi

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EDITOR

Bruce Campbell
TEL: (06) 299 2232
FAX: (06) 299 2332

PHOTOGRAPHY

Duntroon Sports Shots
Visual Illusions (03) 585 2894

POSTAL ADDRESS

In Blue & White
PO Box 869
Queensbeyan,
NSW 2620

South Melbourne
Hellas Soccer Club

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EDITORIAL



Sounds sensible to me

EVERYONE HAS heard the news of the decision to extend next seasons Ericsson Cup to fourteen teams by now, and everyone will have their own opinion.

There was also widespread opinion about the changes introduced at the start of this season; including opinions being thrown about in courtrooms as the fat cat lawyers got richer and richer.

Now it seems that it is soccer's turn to gloat as we put our house in, comparative, order while the Rupert Murdoch backed 'Super' Rugby League seems to leap from one squabble to another.

It doesn't give many people in this game any satisfaction to see another sport endure a taste of what we had to put up with.

But it does put everything into a realistic perspective.

What we have to hope for now is that our courtroom troubles are behind us, that those who would seek to undermine the position of others who they consider to be a threat to their own security should back off a little.

This game is all about opinions, after all.

Everyone is entitled to one, although you could spend your entire day listening to people who want to tell you how to run the game, play your football, or even publish your magazine.

Opinions are great, they are what adds a touch of spice to our sport but at the same time we don't all want to rush into a courtroom every time someone's disagrees with us.

But neither then do we want to be pushed around by the neighbourhood bully.

There has to be a lot of give and take in soccer because we have a lot of different factions.

Our game would be a lot stronger if we could accommodate all of those factions under the one happy umbrella.

Idealism?

Maybe.

OK, so now the *In Blue & White* (and that doesn't mean the official South Melbourne) opinion on the new format.

Firstly, thumbs up for bringing in Perth and thumbs up for announcing the format for the next again season and also for announcing that next season's fixture list will be available shortly.

But thumbs down for reducing the number of rounds.

If our season is going to come from September until the end of April then that is approximately 32 weeks available for league soccer.

Toss in a couple of double-up holiday fixtures and it is easily conceivable that a 16 team league can fit into that time frame.

We already ARE playing 33 games - so why should we drop back?

Wouldn't it have been a lot easier to either say that the league will be increased to sixteen teams straight away or that the entry of ALL new clubs will be delayed for another season.

Sounds sensible to me - but then I won't take you to court if you disagree with me, either.....

Mini series lies ahead as Blues begin the countdown

IT'S REALLY down to the wire now, THE business end of the season. No more slip ups, no bad results, no games where the Blues get robbed – no more games like the Adelaide City one.

Instead, it has to be maximum points all the way home.

And if the Blues can keep on winning then that Top Six spot isn't totally unrealistic.

"We can do it," says coach Frank Arok.

"The players have to believe in themselves but we can't afford any mistakes.

"If South Melbourne keep on winning then we'll be in the Top Six again.

"I always said that March was going to be the important month and that is the way that it has turned out to be."

With two successive home wins against Morwell and Canberra behind, and more importantly the points on the ladder, that chasm between the Blues and the Top Six has now just shortened into daylight.

But if South Melbourne are to make the play-offs then some pretty decent opposition has to be



VAUGHAN COVENTRY: hitting the goal trail again on the run home

overcome first.

Tonight Sydney United start a 'mini season' of five games against Top Six contenders.

Sounds ominous – it IS.

But realistically, there is that word again, what is the point of just scraping into the finals and then

getting bundled out.

So if Frank Arok's young marauders are going to do anything at all then sooner or later they are going to have to knock off the big guys.

And it might as well begin tonight.

Sydney United took maximum points from us last season but at the end of the day we got our own back – sending them packing in a finals match at Marconi Stadium.

They are a fine footballing side but when they play away from home they adopt a far more defensive style – as their record of away draws shows.

They will also be keen to avenge that last season game which ended in a bit of controversy as the refs red card started flashing.

At stake is their own Top Six hope – but if the Blues are to keep alive Frank's dream then a streak of steel has to start creeping into the team.

Maybe tonight's the night.

But whatever, it looks like a really nail-biting finish to the season – and then at the end of that really hard five match struggle is another beauty.



HAPPY DAYS for the Blues – as United bundle out of last season's Top Six

That is when John Kosmina brings his Breakers side down to a bit of revenge.

Bob Jane for a repeat Johnnie Walker Cup showdown.

Kossie wasn't happy with the January final and he'll be looking for exciting football ahead – but then it's been like that all season.

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WHAT A FIND All white call-up

HE'S BEEN rated the find of the season by South Melbourne – and could be well in line for the Rookie of the Year title in this season's Ericsson Cup.

And while his brother Jason has grabbed his share of headlines, including a Soccerroo appearance, Michael Petkovic (pictured above) is rated by many experts as the better keeper.

"He really has been a tremendous find for us," says South Melbourne General Manager, Peter Filopoulos.

"Michael came to us on recommendation and has really done very well."

In fact, Petkovic's form has been good enough to see off both Steve Mautone and Mike Liikakis, both of whom have transferred to other clubs – and keep last season's number one, Dean Anastasiadis, on the bench.

Midfielder Vaughan Coveny's fine season has been rewarded by a call up to the New Zealand national squad which will shortly start preparing for a trip to China.

Coveny, who has gone to the top of the South Melbourne goalscoring charts, is one of a large squad which the Kiwis will trim down later to an eighteen man squad.

Last year he was also a member of the All White team which went down in a two legged series to Australia.



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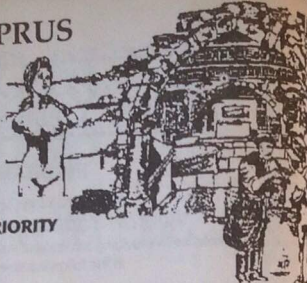
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BANK OF CYPRUS : A HUNDRED YEARS AHEAD.

Match Details

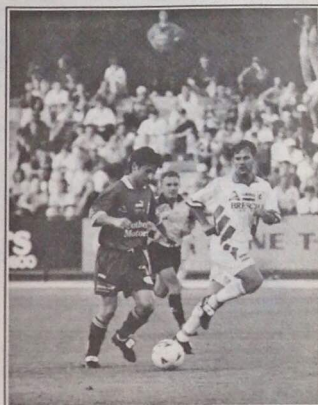
ROUND 27: v Canberra Cosmos (home) 24 March
WON: 3-2
SCORERS: Curcija, Coveny 2
Att: 4,169
SM: Petkovic, Kuzmanovic (Blatsis 46), Panopoulos, Coveny, Trimboli, Petersen, Knezevic (Sherilovski 70), Baser, Curcija (Damianos 80), Muscat, Orlie
Referee: W Dade
Yellow Cards: Coveny, Muscat, Blatsis

ROUND 24: deferred match v Monwell (H) 20 Mar
WON: 3-2
SCORERS: Curcija, Coveny 2
Att: 4,873
SM: Petkovic, Muscat, Anthopoulos (Nikolic 81), Panopoulos, Coveny, Trimboli, Damianos (Curcija 46), Petersen, Knezevic, Baser, Alsopp (Sherilovski 46)
Referee: E Brazzale

ROUND 25: v Adelaide City (away) 17 March
LOST: 1-2
SCORER: Coveny
A: 4,111
SM: Petkovic, Kuzmanovic (Orlic 73), Panopoulos, Coveny, Trimboli, Damianos, Petersen, Knezevic, Baser, Curcija (Anthopoulos), Muscat
Referee: E Lennie
Yellow Cards: Petersen, Knezevic, Muscat

ROUND 23: v Melbourne Knights (away) 10 March
DREW 1-1
SCORER: Michael Curcija
Att: 7,140
SM: Petkovic, Blatsis, Kuzmanovic, Panopoulos, Coveny, Trimboli, Damianos, Petersen, Knezevic, Baser, Curcija, Alsopp (Lewis 46 - Baser 84), Muscat, Orlie
Referee: E Lennie
Yellow Cards: Blatsis, Panopoulos, Petersen, Muscat
Red Card: Blatsis

ROUND 22: v Newcastle Breakers (away) 1 March
LOST 2-4
SCORERS: Damianos, Orlie



YOUNG STAR: Bill Damianos

PHOTO: Tony Gavradinas

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to edit our
quarterly newsletter

enquiries to:
Peter Filopoulos
9645 9797



TOOHEYS BLUE



Hot Shots

ERICSSON CUP THE TOP MARKSMEN

25	Damien MORI (Adelaide City)
17	Kris TRAJANOVSKI (UTS Olympic)
14	Frank FARINA (Brisbane Strikers)
14	Jim TSEKINIS (West Adelaide)
11	Paul WADE (Canberra Cosmos)
10	Francis AWARITEFE (Marconi-Fairfield)
10	Rod BROWN (Brisbane Strikers)
9	Vaughan COVENY (South Melbourne)
9	Andy HARPER (Marconi-Fairfield)
9	Bradley HASSELL (Adelaide City)
8	Tony PERINICH (Wollongong Wolves)
7	Jason BENNETT (Newcastle Breakers)
7	Matthew BINGLEY (Marconi-Fairfield)

On The Card

ERICSSON CUP

ROUND 28

Friday

Newcastle Breakers v Melbourne Knights

Saturday

Brisbane Strikers v Morwell Falcons

Marconi-Fairfield v Canberra Cosmos

Sunday

South Melbourne v Sydney United

UTS Olympic v Wollongong City

West Adelaide v Adelaide City

the next

Ericsson Cup Matches at Bob Jane Stadium

UTS Olympic

Saturday, 6 April 1996

KICK OFF 7.00pm

West Adelaide

Saturday, 13 April 1996

KICK OFF 7.00pm

1995/96 SOUTH MELBOURNE STATS

Best Crowd:

13,956 v West Adelaide (Home) - Round 9

Best Home Crowd:

13,956 v West Adelaide (Home) - Round 9

Total Home Crowds:

90,217 (13 games)

Average Home Crowd:

6,947

95/96 Ericsson Cup Top Crowd:

13,956 South Melbourne v West Adelaide - Round 9

*All figures are based on official ASF records and not those reported in the press.

ERICSSON CUP PLAYER APPEARANCES

11	Alsopp
15	Anastasiadis
17	Anthopoulos
17	Basar
13	Blatsis
21	Coveny
08	Curcija
21	Damianos
07	Davidson
05	Duric
16	Kalic
09	Knezevic
22	Kuzmanovic
17	Lewis
02	Lilikakis
07	Mangos
07	Muscat
15	Nikolic
07	Orlic (plus 16 for Olympic)
21	Panopoulos
04	Papadopoulos
25	Petersen
09	Petkovic
16	Sherifovski
24	Trimboli
11	Valkanis
TOTAL: 27 players	
GOAL SCORERS:	
09	Vaughan COVENY
07	Ivan KELIC
07	Paul TRIMBOLI
04	Steve PANOPOULOS
04	Bill DAMIANOS
04	Michael CURCIJA
02	Agim SHERIFOVSKI
01	Daniel ALSOPP
01	Con BLATSIS
01	Craig LEWIS
01	Steve MANGOS
01	Nick ORLIC



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THE BLUES SQUAD

- 1 Dean Anastasiadis
- 2 Con Blatsis
- 3 Steve Mangos
- 4 Alek Kuzmanovic
- 5 Mike Valkanis
- 6 Con Anthopoulos
- 7 Steve Panopoulos
- 8 Vaughan Coveney
- 9 Paul Trimboli (C)
- 10
- 11 Agim Sherifovski
- 12 Bill Damianos
- 13 Craig Lewis
- 14 Michael Petersen
- 15 Jean-Paul Knezevic
- 16 Tansell Baser
- 17 Sasa Nikolic
- 18 Michael Curcija
- 19 Daniel Alsopp
- 20
- 21
- 22 Kevin Muscat
- 23 Michael Petkovic
- 24 Nick Orlic
- 25
- 26 George Tsianakas
- 27
- 28
- 29

BLUE SHIRTS, BLUE SHORTS, WHITE SOCKS

LIKELY LINE-UP

PETKOVIC

ORLIC

KNEZEVIC

MUSCAT

KUZMANOVIC

BLATSIS

PETERSEN

COVENY

PANOPOULOS

TRIMBOLI

ALSOPP

COACH: Frank Arok

LAST SIX LEAGUE HOME GAMES

- v Canberra Cosmos (24.3.96) WON 3-2
- v Morwell Falcons (20.3.96) WON 3-2
- v Brisbane Strikers (25.2.96) DREW 0-0
- v Marconi (11.12.96) LOST 1-4
- v UTS Olympic (4.2.96) WON 2-1
- v Wollongong City (29.12.95) WON 6-0

LAST SEASON:

South Melbourne 0 Sydney United 1
Sydney United 2 South Melbourne 1

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LIKELY LINE-UP

PEROSH

KUPRESAK

MARKOVAC

RUDAN

BILOKAPIC

PLESA

ZDRILIC

MORIC

ENES

PATIKAS

MILICIC

COACH: Branko Culina

UNITED SQUAD

- John Perosh 1
- Robert Trajkovski 2
- Velimir Kupresak 3
- Tony Popovic (c) 4
- Mark Babic 5
- Robert Enes 6
- 7
- Ante Moric 8
- Robert Markovac 9
- Ante Milicic 10
- Dominic Usaj 11
- Marko Rudan 12
- Jimmy Patikas 13
- David Zdrilic 14
- Sean Babic 15
- Manis Lamond 16
- Paul Bilokapic 17
- Richard Plesa 18
- 19
- Andrew Crews 20
- James Aschner 21
- 22
- Chad Gibson 23
- 24
- 25
- 26
- 27
- 28


LAST SIX LEAGUE AWAY GAMES

- v Wollongong City (22.3.96) DREW 1-1
- v Canberra Cosmos (13.3.96) DREW 1-1
- v Marconi-Fairfield (24.2.96) LOST 1-2
- v Morwell Falcons (17.2.96) DREW 0-0
- v Melbourne Knights (4.2.96) DREW 0-0
- v Newcastle Breakers (29.12.95) DREW 1-1

CURRENT FORM: South Melbourne has a good home record, Sydney United has a moderate away record - and hasn't won away from home since early December. With two home wins on the trot the Blues will be pushing for a hat-trick.
PREDICTION: Another draw. 1-1

EASIER



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BIG MATCH RESULTS

ERICSSON CUP

ROUND 26

Friday 22 March
WOLLONGONG CITY 1 SYDNEY UNITED 1
Pernich 9 Genc 17
Att: 3,002 Referee: C Dimsos

Saturday 23 March

BRISBANE STRIKERS 3 NEWCASTLE 2
Hunter 38, Farina 63, 89 Sprod 22, Zane 83
Att: 3,615 Ref: J Papanicolas
MARCONI-FAIRFIELD 4 MORWELL 0
Harper 10, Awartele 13
Bingley 49, Renaud 78
Att: 4,015 Referee: S Micallef

Sunday 24 March

UTS OLYMPIC 1 ADELAIDE CITY 1
Meredith 61 Hassell 37
Att: 5,568 Referee: G Connolly
SOUTH MELBOURNE 3 CANBERRA 2
Curcija 33, Coveny 40, 55 Perinovic 19, Castro 68
Att: 4,169 Referee: W Dade
WEST ADELAIDE 1 KNIGHTS 0
Andriol 63
Att: 5,182 Referee: E Lennie

ROUND 27 (split round)

Wednesday 20 March
SYDNEY UNITED 3 NEWCASTLE 0
Genc 10, Lamond 34,
Zdrilic 68
Att: 2,918 Referee: B Hugo
MELBOURNE KNIGHTS 2 BRISBANE 0
Spiller 58, 84
Att: 2,145 Referee: J Fraser

ROUND 24 (deferred match)

Wednesday 20 March
SOUTH MELBOURNE 3 MORWELL 2
Curcija 55, Coveny 82, 89 Miller 43, Masi 60
Att: 4,873

Ericsson Cup

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Marconi Fairfield	26	15	6	5	49	26	51
UTS Olympic	26	13	7	6	45	33	46
Sydney United	27	11	11	5	37	24	44
Melbourne Knights	27	12	8	7	30	18	44
Brisbane Strikers	27	13	5	9	42	32	44
West Adelaide	26	13	4	9	39	31	43
Adelaide City	26	11	7	8	49	35	40
South Melbourne	26	10	4	12	41	46	34
Morwell Falcons	26	8	6	12	30	49	30
Canberra Cosmos	26	6	9	11	41	50	27
Newcastle Breakers	27	4	5	18	32	62	17
Wollongong City	26	4	4	18	25	54	16

*3 points for a win, 1 point for a draw

National Youth League

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
South Melbourne	20	13	5	2	68	18	44
Green Gully	20	14	1	5	51	34	43
Melbourne Knights	20	11	4	5	59	37	37
Heidelberg United	20	10	6	4	47	32	36
VIS	19	19	4	5	48	25	34
Bulleen Lions	20	10	4	6	41	26	34
Melbourne zebras	20	7	7	6	36	36	28
Springvale City	20	7	6	7	30	40	27
Morwell Falcons	20	7	2	11	56	59	23
Altona Magic	20	5	2	13	20	48	17
Port Melbourne	19	2	1	16	20	49	7
North Geelong	20	1	2	17	10	82	5

ERICSSON CUP NOTICE

Entry inside the perimeter fence of the playing area is prohibited at all times and offenders will be prosecuted. All spectators are requested to vacate the ground within 15 minutes of the end of the final game. Police may be requested to remove any unauthorised persons who remain after the stipulated time. The setting alight of, or the igniting or discharging of any type of object, including fireworks, signal or smoke flares, is strictly prohibited. OFFENDERS WILL BE ARRESTED AND CHARGED

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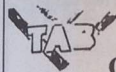
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Con Blatsis

is one of the many youngsters to have made a mark on first team football at Bob Jane Stadium this season.

Still only eighteen, the midfielder shows all the signs of blossoming into a regular first team player.

PHOTO: Tony Gavradinas



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A v Melbourne Knights (8.10.95) LOST 0-1
A v Morwell Falcons (13.10.95) WON 1-0
A v Adelaide City (18.10.95) WON 2-1
H v Canberra Cosmos (22.10.95) DREW 2-2
A v Wollongong City (27.10.95) LOST 0-2
H v Sydney United (5.11.95) LOST 0-2
A v UTS Olympic (12.11.95) LOST 2-4
A v Marconi-Fairfield (18.11.95) LOST 1-3
H v West Adelaide (25.11.95) LOST 2-3
A v Brisbane Strikers (2.12.95) LOST 0-3
H v Newcastle Breakers (6.12.95) WON 3-1



ERICSSON CUP - SECOND PHASE

H v Melbourne Knights (10.12.95) WON 1-0
H v Morwell Falcons (17.12.95) DREW 2-2
H v Adelaide City (23.12.95) WON 2-0
A v Canberra Cosmos (26.12.95) LOST 1-3
H v Wollongong City (29.12.95) WON 6-0
A v Sydney United (7.01.96) LOST 1-4
H v UTS Olympic (4.02.96) WON 2-1
H v Marconi-Fairfield (11.02.96) LOST 1-4
A v West Adelaide (18.02.96) WON 2-0
H v Brisbane Strikers (25.02.96) DREW 0-0
A v Newcastle Breakers (1.03.96) LOST 2-4

ERICSSON CUP - THIRD PHASE

A v Melbourne Knights (10.03.96) DREW 1-1
A v Adelaide City (17.03.96) LOST 1-2
H v Morwell Falcons (20.03.96) WON 3-2
H v Canberra Cosmos (24.03.96) WON 3-2
A v Wollongong City (27.03.96)
H v Sydney United (31.03.96)
H v UTS Olympic (6.04.96)
A v Marconi-Fairfield (8.04.96)
H v West Adelaide (14.04.96)
A v Brisbane Strikers (20.04.96)
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